



community moderated

PANEL QUESTIONS

1. [SCHOOLS] Given that the County will continue to grow and Montgomery Planning needs to accommodate new development with their active master plans, what can MCPS do proactively to ensure that schools are prepared to accommodate the anticipated growth in these areas?
2. [SCHOOLS - ENROLLMENT] How big is too big? Is there a point when a school has too many students? (S5)
3. [SCHOOLS] MCPS always seems to be playing catch-up. Many of today's participants expressed the concern that development should follow infrastructure instead of the other way around. Would a stricter growth policy correct this process? Options suggested include:
 - a. Enacting moratoria at lower utilization levels.
 - b. Enacting moratoria based on individual schools.
4. [SCHOOLS – COLOCATION] Howard County is known for their shared facilities and amenities. In places where we are strapped for available land and we want to see growth occurring, what could be done to foster more sharing of amenities and facilities? (S4)
5. [TRANSPORTATION – MAINTENANCE] Taking care of what we have...there is a wide-spread complaint that local roads are falling apart and not being resurfaced or rebuilt. What is the county doing to address this problem? (Dan) Leave in but move down the priority list (T4)
6. [TRANSPORTATION and SCHOOLS – MASS TRANSIT AND SAFE ROUTES] In some areas, could students use public transit to get to and from school in order to avoid some of the cost of school buses? (T6)
7. [SCHOOLS] When a municipality has stricter adequate public facilities standards than the county, as we see in the case of school induced moratoria thresholds in Rockville and Gaithersburg, what impact does that have on CIP decisions or the order in which schools are considered for revitalization/ expansion? Would it be better if the county and municipalities had standards that were aligned?
8. [TRANSPORTATION – AGENCY COORDINATION] The transportation impact of growth is not confined to where one lives. How does Montgomery County coordinate with municipalities and with neighboring jurisdictions? (T1)
9. [TRANSPORTATION – INDEPENDENT TRANSIT AGENCY] The County Executive proposed a state bill in January that would give the county the authority to create an independent transit agency that would include bus rapid transit (BRT) and could include Ride On. The bill was withdrawn after much criticism. The major focus of the criticism revolved not around what the bill would do but around fears that it would raise taxes. The County Executive indicated that much public discussion was needed to address the concerns raised before any legislative action is undertaken. What is the process for addressing those issues and how will the public have an opportunity to provide their opinion. (T2)

10. [TRANSPORTATION – LONG-RANGE PLANNING] Glenn Orlin spoke about the long-range transportation plan and the county priority letter to the state for funding state projects. Could you provide an update on where the state stands with funding for the major state transit projects: CCT and Purple Line?

11. [SCHOOLS – MCPS + PLANNING] How can we more effectively integrate MCPS into the sector/ master planning process? For example, should MCPS write a section of the sector plan that identifies specific solutions it would consider to accommodate the growth envisioned in the plan? (S6)

12. [SCHOOLS - FORECASTING] With regard to student generation rates and enrollment forecasting, if data are available to make projections based on more cluster specific data, why do we continue to forecast using countywide or subcounty-wide data? Isn't it true that actual student generation rates in some area high-rises are greater than the corresponding rates used by MCPS and county planners. (S2)

13. [SCHOOLS - DEVELOPERS] There are sector and master plans where no one developer generates enough students for a school, but collectively all of them do (Example: first White Flint sector plan). As a result, most of the developers contribute no land. Why shouldn't developers pay for/ contribute land proportionally for a school site? (S1)

14. [TRANSPORTATION – COSTS – this question also applies to the audience in their breakout sessions] We have a pressing need for all kinds of infrastructure just to address current needs and growth just adds to the backlog. School and transportation are the two most obvious infrastructure needs, but there are others. It is costly to address these needs. At the same time, many citizens are complaining about high taxes and oppose increasing them. How can the county address these conflicting desires? How should they be balanced? (T3)

15. [TRANSPORTATION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT] The public clearly desires more jobs and better-paying jobs. How do transportation and schools support this economic growth? Is there a way that the taxes generated from non-residential development be used to fund the needed infrastructure? (T5)

16. [SCHOOLS] What means currently exist to finance the purchase of land for new school sites? For example, is it realistic to think the county could acquire part of the WMAL site for a new middle or high school?

17. [SCHOOLS] Can you comment on the practice of putting placeholder projects in the CIP to avoid a development moratorium? For instance, three years ago, the projected utilization at B-CC high school increased from 117% to 132%. No plan for accommodating that surge had been put in place previously, so when the Council adopted the FY 2013-18 CIP, it included a placeholder project that added more than 750 seats to B-CC High School. This avoided a moratorium that would have prevented the issuance of building permits in downtown Bethesda. It's understandable that we want to see growth in an urban, transit-oriented, employment center inside the beltway. The county has clearly defined where we want to see growth occur, so why are we taken by surprise when this growth impacts our schools. Adding a placeholder project to the CIP shouldn't be necessary if we planned proactively for the impact such residential growth will have on our schools. Will we see similar placeholders in the forthcoming CIP amendment for Northwood, Einstein, Gaithersburg and Wheaton high schools?